

TWO DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE OLYMPUS.

THE ALABAMA AGAIN AT WORK.

THE PROPOSED EUROPEAN CONGRESS.

ACQUIESCENCE OF SMALL STATES.

DECLINSON SENT IN BY AUSTRIA.

DISCUSSIONS ON AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

The Extra Cunard Steamer Olympus, which left Liverpool at 1 p.m. on the 16th and Queenstown on the 18th of December, arrived at this port at about 3 o'clock on Monday morning.

Great Britain.

A telegram from Alexandria reports that the American ship *Winged Racer*, which left Manila on the 5th October for New York, and the *Amazons*, bound to Falmouth, had been burnt on Java Head by the Alabama on the 16th November.

A private investigation was taking place by the Police and Custom Officials at Queenstown into the circumstances attending the recent enlistment of the fifteen men who were recently disembarked from United States war-steamer *Kearsarge*.

At a public meeting recently held at Leicester, a resolution was passed for the repatriation of the North and South was adopted by a very large majority. The meeting reviewed the subject exclusively from the Slavey point, and based the resolution on the opinion that the extinction of Slavery would be best promoted by secession.

A special correspondent of *The London Times* writing from Richmond, points out that the Unionists are now investing the *Port of Boston* with a cordon of vessels, and that "as far as we have seen, for the first time in thirty years, we have given up all hope of success to the Southern cause, or, if you prefer it, to the Confederate cause, really dangerous and difficult."

The *Times* correspondent at the headquarters of the Confederates in Tennessee says that a crisis in the war is approaching which will not more than ever the stubbornness and tenacity of the South. He pays a high tribute to the magnificence of Northern faith and self-reliance as contrasted with the lawlessness of the Southern cause.

The controversy between Mr. Cobden and Mr. Delane, the Editor-in-Chief of *The Times*, has merged into a personal matter between Mr. Cobden and Mr. Delane, the Editor-in-Chief of *The Times*.

It is asserted that a searching inquiry into the expenditure of the Admiralty will enable Mr. Gladstone to submit to Parliament a material reduction on this head.

The Colonial Secretary—the Duke of Newcastle—had recovered from his severe illness.

Sir R. D. Butler—the Solicitor-General—was expected to be nominated to the vacant Judgeship, vice Wickham deceased. Another authority says Sergeant Shee will be the man.

LAUNCH OF AN IRON-CLAD.

An important addition was made on Dec. 12 to the Royal Navy by the launch of the armor-clad screw steam frigate Minotaur at the premises of the Thos. New Ironworks and Shipbuilding Company, Blackwall. The Minotaur is of the same size and class as the Agamemnon, now building for the Government by Messrs. Laird of Birkenhead, and the Northumberland, building at Millwall. The following are the dimensions of the vessel: Length overall 310 feet, width 40, height 30, depth 12, draught 10.5, tonnage in tons, builder's measurement 6,300. Her engines are of 1,300 horse-power, and are fully calculated to perform a speed of 14 knots an hour, notwithstanding the immense size and weight of the vessel.

Her armor plates are 5 inches thick, or one inch thicker than in vessels of the Warrior class, and her broadside armament consists of twelve guns of the calibre of 100 pounds each, ranging from 200 to 300 yards, the entire length of the vessel being 300 feet, but the Minotaur will be completely iron-clad from stem to stern, leaving no part of the vessel unprotected. About one-third of her armor will consist of 50 guns of large caliber, the arrangement of which has yet been determined, and the remainder of the gunnery will consist of 100 pounder rifled, 150-pounder round shot, and other guns for arming monitors, and also an improved apparatus which has been invented for the purpose of working these large guns with ease and efficiency in the naval service. The Minotaur has been fitted for the reception, when necessary, of a powerful ram at her stern, the "SMASHING POWER" of the Armstrong gun-founder.

From The London Times.

The smashing powers of Sir William Armstrong's sea-pounder gun were tested on Friday (Dec. 11), at Shoreham, against the "Warrior" steamer. The target is an exact counterpart of a section of the "Warrior's" side, and measures 100 feet long by 10 feet wide, and is constructed of iron plates of the best manganese metal, 45 inches thick. It stood on a bank of 10 inches in depth. Behind the come two rows of iron plates riveted to massive ribs of iron, the whole being covered up by simple beams of fir of immense thickness. The target was moved at 1,000 yards distance from the firing points of the 600 and 300-pound Armstrong and wooden targets for ascertaining the correct elevation of the gun.

The first shot from "Big Will" was a dummy cast iron shell, weighing 60 pounds, and was levelled with such accuracy that the wooden target was struck horizontally to powder. The elevation of the piece in the instance was 25°, and the charge 70 pounds. The next shot was a steel shell with a cast iron head, weighing 300 pounds, and containing 15 pounds of powder, which is only four-fifths of its normal charge. Before firing this shot a consultation took place among the artillerists present as to the elevation to be given, it having been discovered that the wooden target demanded by the "Warrior" was 100 feet away, and the gunner had to fire at 1,000, as had been originally intended. After some discussion, the gun was fired at 20° elevation, the shell passing just over the top of the target a little to the right of the central line.

The next two shots—live steel shells similar in shape to No. 2—demonstrated in a most striking way the wonderful accuracy of the gun in elevating the slight change in elevation. For shot No. 3 the piece was depressed to 20°, the shell passing through the exact center of the top of the target, and carrying away a piece of the wood framing by a semi-circular shape. The fourth shot was fired at only 10° elevation, and the target was taken off at once, the gunner making daylight through it, and exposing at the very moment of impact. A hole 6 ft. by 3 ft. was made in the spin plate, level with and a few inches on the left of the bullet's eye. The tank backing was splittered into fragments from the side of the coconut to the mere fiber, and the gun plates and one of the ribs were completely torn away like so much paper. In front below the hole there lay a huge mass of iron plates, which had been bent and twisted, and lying like a piece of crumpled black rock. The plate above the one which was pierced was started from its place and helped outward, nearly the whole of the bolts holding the target being broken away.

In fact, all present allowed that since the great battle of gun versus plate had begun to be waged, there had never been such a complete triumph for the former combatant. As first it had been intended to try the effects of the 600-pounder gun, but it having been discovered that the wooden target demanded by the "Warrior" was 1,000 feet away, the gunner had to fire at 1,000, and so it was done.

In Paris the Duke of Brunswick was robbed by an English yacht of diamonds and 20,000 francs in gold and silver, and was severely injured. The thief, pointing the 300-pounder gun he had fired at the Duke, said: "I am here to prove that the Emperor is not a fool." The Duke of Brunswick was severely injured, and the gun was taken off at 20° elevation, the shell passing just over the top of the target a little to the right of the central line.

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